

Oliver Brown, et al. v. Board of Education of Topeka

Excerpt from: “*Brief for the United States as Amicus Curiae:*
Oliver Brown, et al. v. Board of Education of Topeka, 347 U.S. 483 (1954)”

“It is in the context of the present world struggle between freedom and tyranny that the problem of racial discrimination must be viewed. The United States is trying to prove to the people of the world, of every nationality, race, and color, that a free democracy is the most civilized and most secure form of government yet devised by man. We must set an example for others by showing firm determination to remove existing flaws in our democracy.

The existence of discrimination against minority groups in the United States has an adverse effect upon our relations with other countries. Racial discrimination furnished grist for the Communist propaganda mills, and it raises doubts even among friendly nations as to the intensity of our devotion to the democratic faith.”

Note: *Amicus Curiae* literally means “friend of the court” and refers to someone who is not a party to the case who offers information or argument in support of one of the parties in the case. Here the “friend of the court” is the United States Federal Government in the person of the office of the Attorney General. It is not unusual for the United States Government to file “amicus” briefs before the Supreme Court in cases of national importance.